



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

You've Been Asking . . .

Tomah Municipal Sanitary Landfill

Tomah, Wisconsin

March 2004

For more information

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A fact sheet explaining EPA's cleanup plan, transcript from the June 2003 public meeting and EPA's cleanup decision can be found under Site Updates at epa.gov/region5/sites/tomah.

Or, look at site files in the library:

Tomah Public Library

716 Superior Ave.

EPA has been receiving calls about our cleanup plans for the ground-water contamination that resulted from past leaks at the Tomah Municipal Sanitary Landfill. Here's a summary of what has happened with the project since the June 2003 public meeting and comment period and what will happen over the next year:

- EPA signed a cleanup decision, called a record of decision, in September 2003. You might have seen the decision advertised in the local newspapers. Appendix A of the record of decision contains EPA's responses to the written statements we received during the comment period and oral remarks presented to the Agency during the June 24 public meeting. You can look at the record of decision and the responsiveness summary in the Tomah Public Library or from the link on EPA's Web page for this site: epa.gov/region5/sites/tomah.
- EPA will soon negotiate a legal agreement with parties EPA holds liable for the cleanup. In such an agreement, these parties would carry out the plan for assuring the cleanup of contaminated ground water under EPA's supervision.
- While negotiations proceed, consultants for the liable parties will continue to test ground water quarterly from the monitoring wells and residential drinking water wells they have been sampling since July 2000. EPA will continue to place the laboratory results in the library.
- The legal agreement will call for a plan expanding the ground-water monitoring network, testing in Deer Creek and performing other aspects of EPA's decision for addressing contaminated ground water.

EPA's decision for contaminated ground water

EPA's plan, presented in the June 24, 2003, public meeting, includes the following:

- relying on natural processes to clean ground water;
- adding more ground-water monitoring wells in new locations;
- regular testing of these wells to verify that ground-water contamination decreases;
- testing the water and sediment (mud) of Deer Creek; and
- placing restrictions to prevent use of ground water in contaminated or potentially-contaminated areas.



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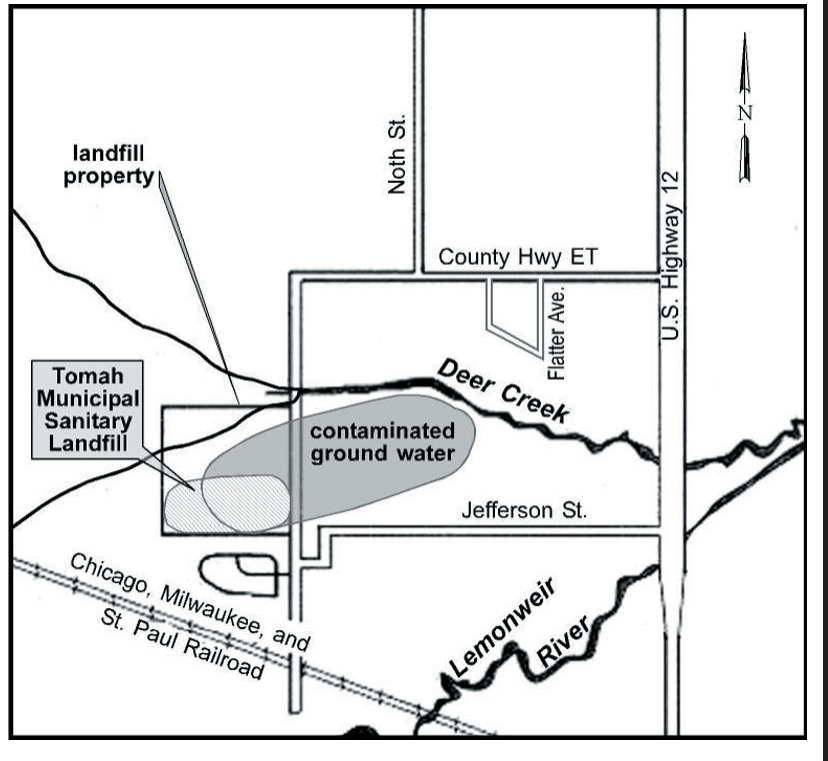
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TOMAH MUNICIPAL SANITARY LANDFILL: You've Been Asking . . .

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About the Tomah Municipal Sanitary Landfill site

The former Tomah landfill and surrounding property on Noth Street make up the EPA Superfund site. The landfill accepted municipal and industrial waste for 20 years until 1970 when it was closed due to concern for ground-water quality.

In 2000, EPA oversaw the construction of a landfill cap to prevent water from mixing with the waste and to slow contaminant movement into the ground water. A system was also installed to safely vent landfill gases. This system continues to operate effectively.

In June and July 2003, EPA accepted public comments on its plans for cleaning contaminated ground water. EPA officially published this plan last September.